

Intro:

Note: this doc is easier to read with the Google Doc mobile app, or on a computer. I have no idea why the images get distorted when opened in a mobile browser, but they just do and I don't know how to fix it.

Had'ih once more. If you've seen my document on the subject of feathers and the way they are used in a manner that is racist in character designs, you probably already know who I am. If not, I am Kit. I am Wet'suwet'en. My pronouns are they/them. I've been in the warrior cats fandom for many years, and as of late I've been trying to become more vocal about the issues this series has, specifically involving cultural appropriation and Indigenous stereotypes. I didn't think I'd be making a second document so soon, but that's just how it will be, I guess.

Also: I do not condone any harassment targeted towards anybody in this document. Do not harass the mods of the game. Do not enter the WCUE discord with the sole intention of attacking people. Do not harass anyone, no matter if they are rude and try to defend the racist use of this stereotype. This document was created for the sole purpose of bringing awareness to the actions of the people mentioned and highlighting why their actions are harmful in the hopes that others won't follow suit. Again, I do not condone ANY harassment directed at the people that are mentioned in this document. Misiyh.

Content Warning:

This document contains blatant racism, pictures of racist stereotypes against Indigenous people, trauma denial made by the colonizer, strong language, and racist beliefs that may be upsetting to indigenous people. Viewer discretion is advised.

Foreword:

If you have not read my first document yet, I implore that you do so in order to understand where I, and many other Indigenous people, are coming from. I will link it here. Also, if you are going into this doc planning to tell me off for “being sensitive”, or how “the feathers aren’t racist all cultures use feathers” or anything similar, I ask you to think for a second: are you Indigenous? Because if you aren’t, then your words have no weight in this debate in the slightest because the stereotype will not impact you.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LI3Gfo7d5kD2GLT1F1t4fUcP9LkLRHWBQ197XffU_Os/edit?usp=sharing

If you’ve read the entirety of it, you may understand why the “Feather behind the ear” trope is harmful and racist, and why Indigenous people are vocal about it being removed. With that in mind, let’s look at a video game that has become very popular in the Warrior Cats fandom: Warrior Cats Ultimate Edition.

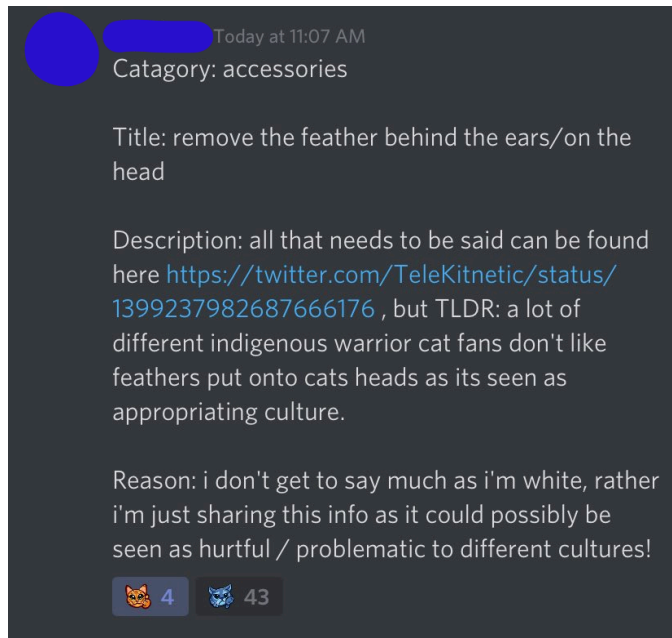


The game itself, according to the wiki, was in beta for two years before being released on May 7th, of this year. While I haven’t been able to find any of the mods’ or devs’ social media or any info about them besides the trailer and the wiki, I am going into this document assuming that all of them are non-Indigenous.

This first started out when someone mentioned the game on the twitter post of the feather document I’d created, saying that they’d ask if changes could be made following the post I made on May 30th. They responded again not long after, saying that they’d been told to delete the suggestion, and that they’d been muted or banned just for suggesting it.

First Complaints and Denials

The screenshots I am showing now were kindly provided to me by a user who has decided that they would like to remain anonymous, now that the doc is out in the open. This shows that I wasn't the first person to bring up the fact that the feathers should probably be removed. The users of all the bystanders have been censored for their safety.



 suggestions



Title: Feathers

Wew so much backfired, I just think some people need to take the time to read the article, please before you come at me with explanations take some time to read up about cultural Feathers.

This includes religions to.



Slowmode is enabled. ⌚



3:30



suggestion-discussion



Yesterday at 2:32 PM

https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1LI3Gfo7d5kD2GLT1F1t4fUcP9LkLRHWBQ197XffU_Os/mobilebasic heres the doc I was talking abt talking about the issue ^^



Yesterday at 2:32 PM

genuinely asking btw cuz to me i thought they were just based of cat colonies, which is a thing irl while ofc it was expanded on to add religion and ranks and all the stuff, i thought it was simply just inspired by colonies that feral cats tend to live in



Yesterday at 2:33 PM

i don't mean the clans really i mean the tribe cats



<https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/...>



replied Yesterday at 2:34 PM

thank you! I'll read through it



Yesterday at 2:34 PM

why for them too? is it bc the use of the word tribe?



Tigress | reply pings off pls! Yesterday at 2:34 PM

Tribe is a term used in many, many different cultures. It's the word for a group of humans. Basically our version of pack, herd, pride, etc (edited)



Yesterday at 2:34 PM

^^



Slowmode is enabled. ⚙



Message #suggestion-discussion





3:31



suggestion-discussion





 Yesterday at 2:38 PM
To be honest I don't see where else a feather could be placed on a cat. Maybe a tail, but the best and most obvious spot would be tucked behind a ear



 Yesterday at 2:38 PM
just stick it up the cats ass obviously






Tigress | reply pings off pls! Yesterday at 2:38 PM
Duh


 Yesterday at 2:38 PM
no culture owns feathers




 Yesterday at 2:38 PM
Exactly

 just stick it up the cats ass obviously
 replied Yesterday at 2:39 PM
LMFAO

 no culture owns feathers
 replied Yesterday at 2:39 PM
yes

 Yesterday at 2:39 PM
Ass accessories when???

 Yesterday at 2:39 PM
I miss shift-lock for the game-

 just stick it up the cats ass obviously
 replied Yesterday at 2:39 PM
 is typing...



Message #suggestion-discussion



3:32



suggestion-discussion



1 new message since 3:27 PM



Tigress | reply pings off pls! Yesterday at 2:49 PM

Please turn reply pings off



Yesterday at 2:50 PM

i hate to break it to ppl but, ur not exactly special for having a culture, every single person on earth has a culture of some sort, yes, even white ppl



Yesterday at 2:50 PM

i guess i just, personally, think it's a bit irritating people are trying to say only a certain demographic is allowed to appreciate feathers as if that culture in particular owns them, y'know?



Yesterday at 2:50 PM

so why gatekeep stuff (edited)



Yesterday at 2:50 PM

I agree



Yesterday at 2:51 PM

i used to collect feathers



Yesterday at 2:51 PM

i guess if someone says "yoouoo don't do anything with feathers they r in my cultur grhregegregerrrrrr!!!" i cant look at birds anymore? ok bye feathers bye birds never looking at you again :)



Slowmode is enabled.



Message #suggestion-discussion



3:32



suggestion-discussion



1 new message since 3:27 PM



Yesterday at 2:51 PM

why dont we all go into #>general-chat and talk/
share about stuff from our culture, it could be fun
ill start off

Yesterday at 2:52 PM

im really not trying to start an argument or
anything i apologize if it seems like it 😓 I was just
bringing up points that ive seen native people say
before for people to consider, yknow ?

i think it's better for me to link posts of about it bc
people are better at wording than i am^^" also just
don't wanna flood the chat too much

<https://warriorsredeux.tumblr.com/post/152257316544/deconstruction-the-tribe-of-rushing-water/amp> this post also goes into that
yeah, it really isn't the worst stereotype out there
but still important to like. acknowledge, yknow?

<https://volepaw.tumblr.com/post/182546899759/this-is-probably-a-long-time-ago-but-i-just-saw-it/amp> this one is a bit long as a
heads up

oh gosh that came out a bit long regardless
im really sorry for starting any argument up , again
^^" it's really not my intent I just want ppl to
acknowledge like. the bad parts 😓 ppl are all
to be upset over appropriate of their cultures

Slowmode is enabled. ⌚



Message #suggestion-discussion



3:32



suggestion-discussion



1 new message since 3:27 PM



Yesterday at 3:02 PM

"It is only within the past 20, maybe 30 years or so that the governments have actually acknowledged how much the Indigenous people suffered throughout colonization, and even then it's only recently that the public as a whole has begun learning about what Indigenous people went through."

"However, the way that artists tend to use the feathers in their design is very reminiscent of these stereotypical caricatures of Indigenous people. "

the doc's here if anyone wants to read through it
https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1LI3Gfo7d5kD2GLT1F1t4fUcP9LkLRHWBQ197XffU_Os/mobilebasic



Yesterday at 3:03 PM

None of that made any sense to me



Yesterday at 3:04 PM

ultimately it's really just up to y'all to make ur own judgements about it all but i hope I couldve been any kind of help ^^;;



Yesterday at 3:04 PM

how is it stereotypical and appropriating to pick up a feather and go "oh pretty im gonna draw this" screams violently



Tigress | reply pings off pls! Yesterday at 3:04 PM

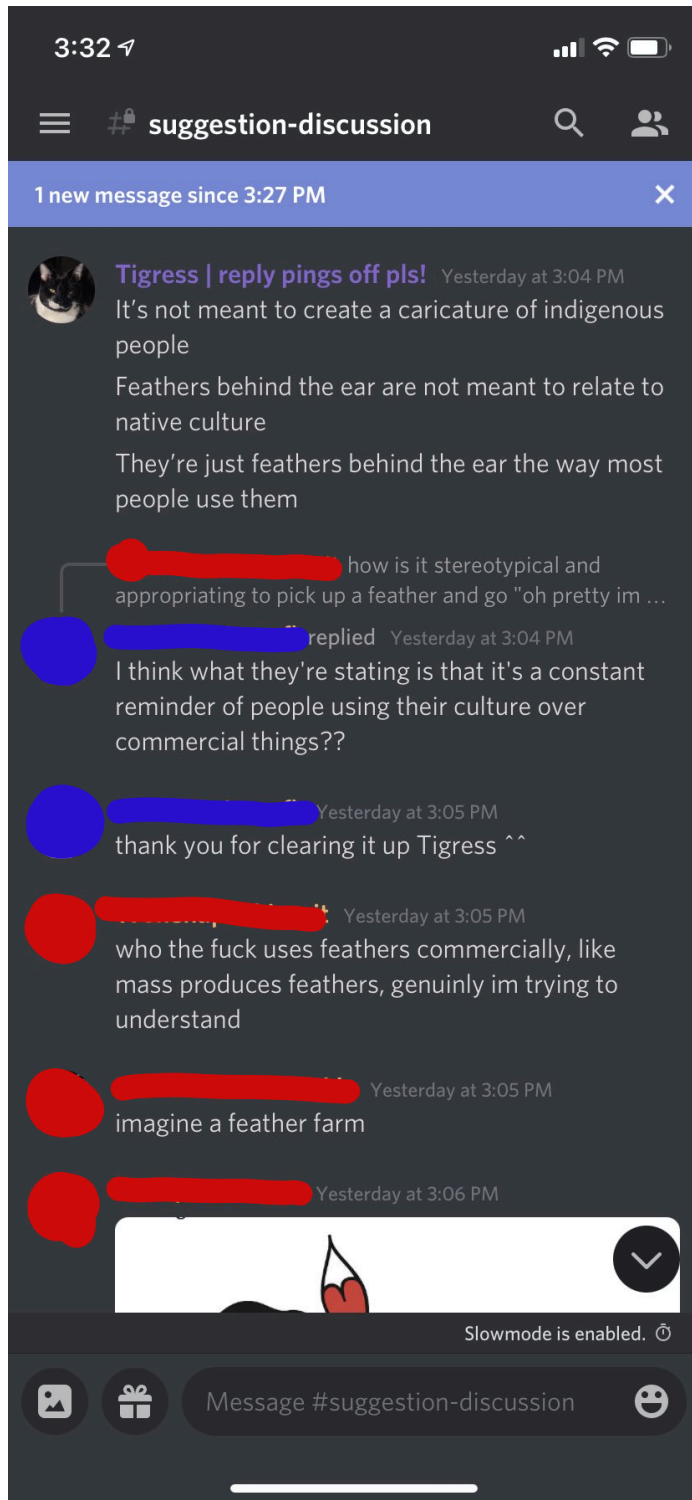
It's not meant to create a caricature of indigenous

Slowmode is enabled. ⚙

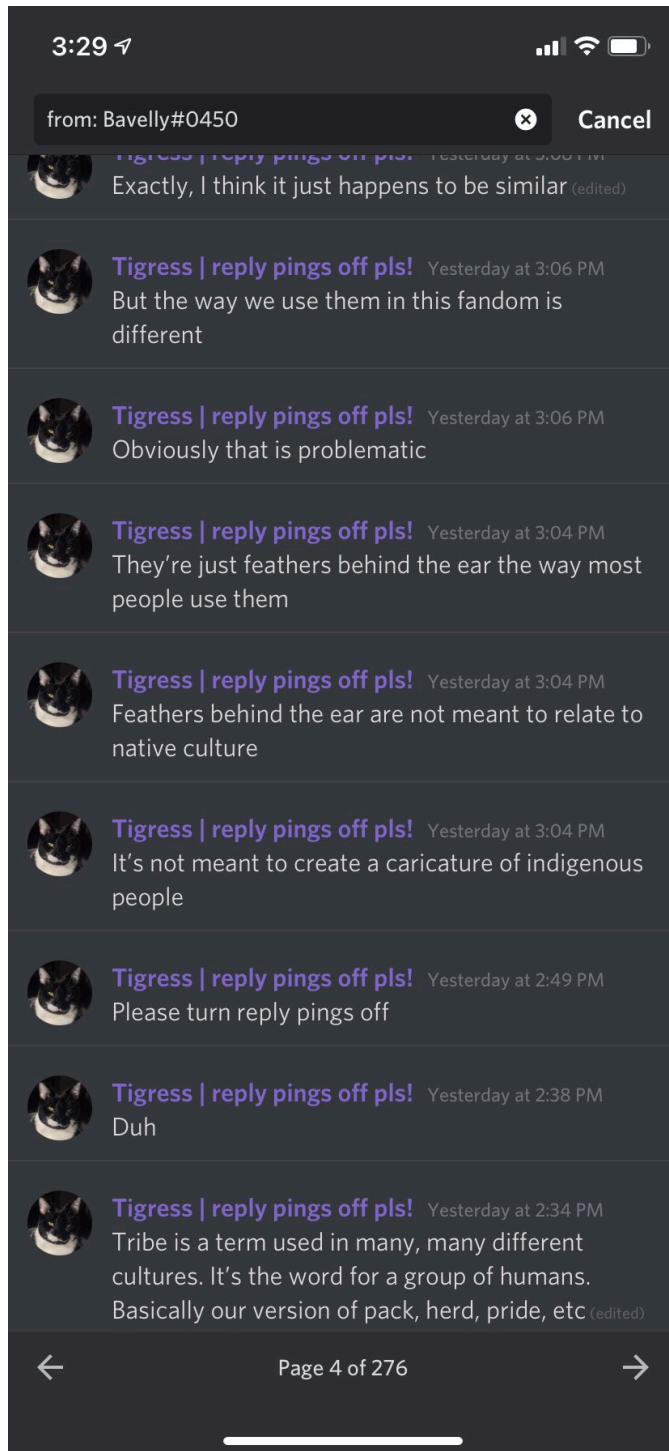


Message #suggestion-discussion

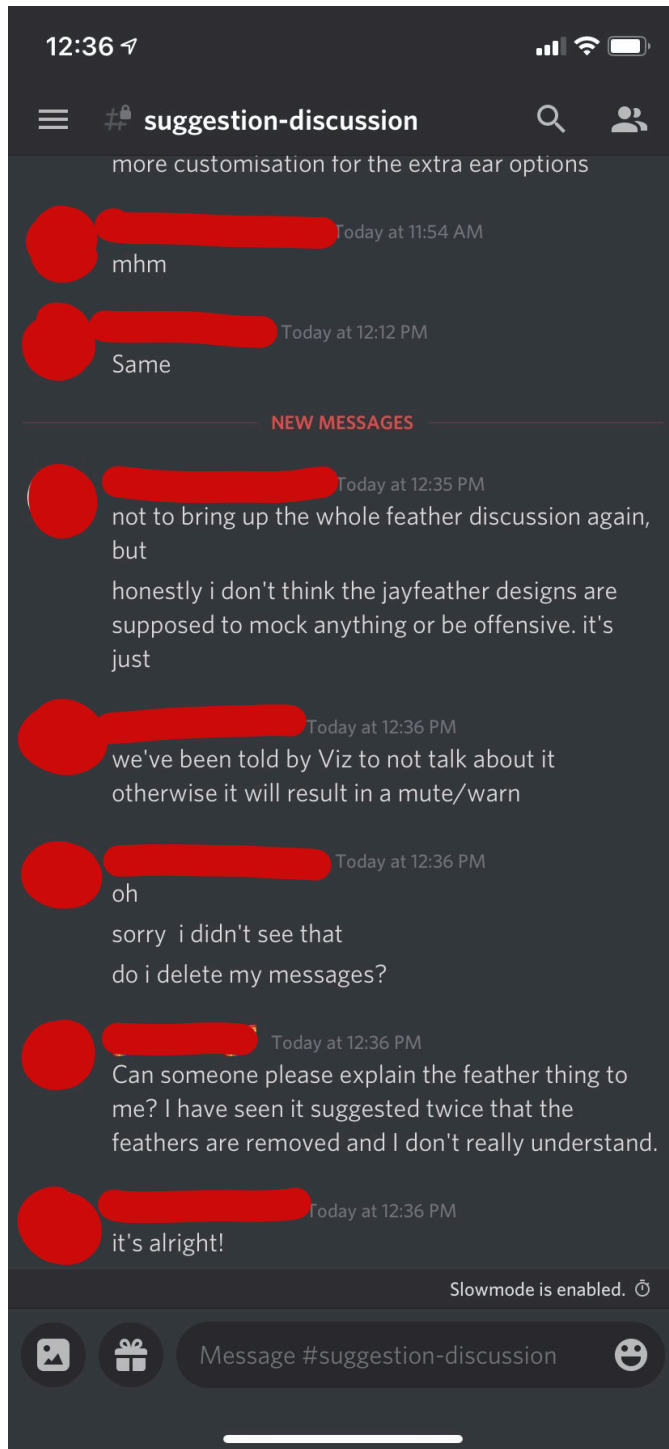




There are many more screenshots going on like this, but you get the idea. I'd also like to include a screenshot featuring all of the responses from one of the devs themselves.



I've also found out that many of the people who brought up the subject of feathers were harassed insistently to the point that some of them left the server entirely. The mods even installed a rule that anyone who brought up the subject would be muted or given a warning.

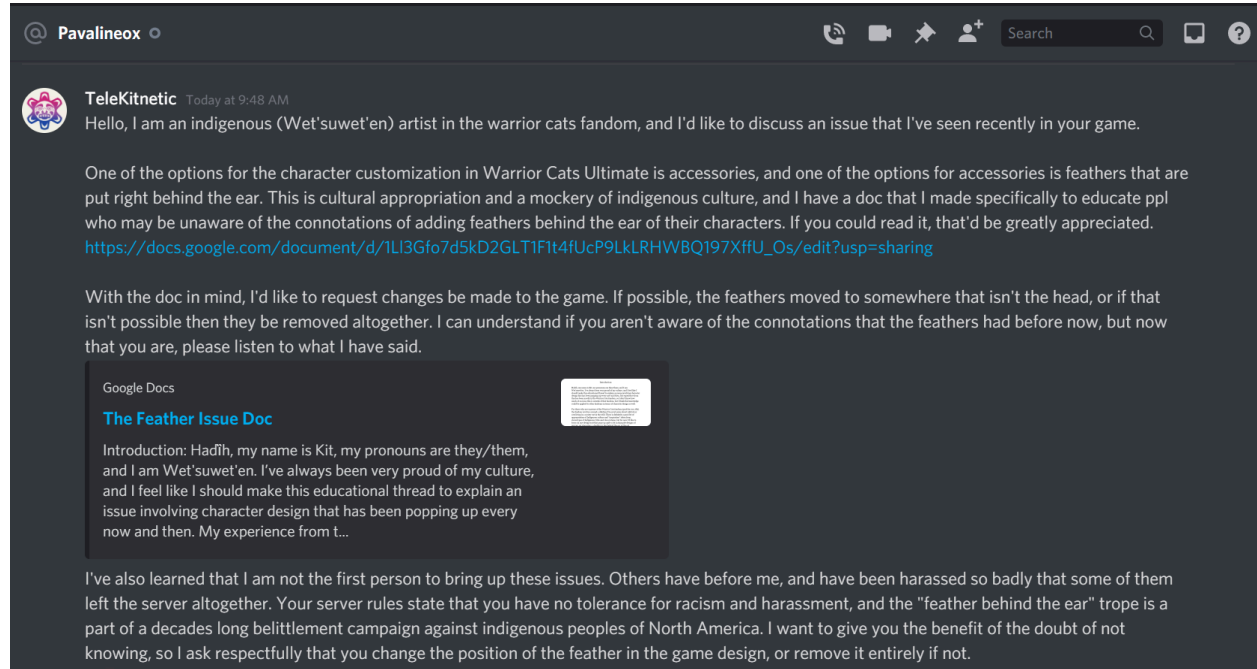


So the mods were deliberately trying to silence anybody who brought up the topic, whether they were against the subject or not.

I was giving them the benefit of the doubt of just not knowing how serious it was until I actually contacted one of the mods, Pavalineox, which I will talk about next.

Talking with the Devs/Mods

I joined the server and contacted Pavalineox, who was listed as the go-to for complaints/concerns. Here is the message I sent them.



This was their first response, and this is where our argument began.

Please take steps to correct this racist stereotype.

I wish you a good day.



Pavalineox Today at 11:34 AM

Sorry to hear that you have an issue with the accessories! If you aren't enjoying the game, feel free to leave a dislike or stop playing. We don't remove accessories after adding them.

Thanks



TeleKitnetic Today at 11:36 AM

But this accessory in question has negative racist connotations, and is cultural appropriation. If you really do have no tolerance for racism, then at least make an effort to bring change to your video game.



Pavalineox Today at 11:38 AM

We don't edit or remove it because it has no racist or cultural connotations.



TeleKitnetic Today at 11:41 AM

Did you even read the document I made?! The trope was used often in racist commercials and caricatures of indigenous people. Not only that, but the feather, in the Native American culture, has incredibly sacred routes. Here is an article by Native Americans on the subject.

<https://blog.nativehope.org/the-feather-symbol-of-high-honor>

I'm not asking a lot, all I'm asking is for the feather to be moved literally anywhere but the head.

The feather is a part of this, in Native American culture specifically, meaning a feather was a sign of honor, especially an eagle's feather. This is why you can expect indigenous people are highly allowed to own eagle's feathers. Here is an article on the significance of feathers. <https://blog.nativehope.org/the-feather-symbol-of-high-honor>

This sacred practice was bastardized during the colonization of Turtle Island, which is now known as North America. The feather, as well as many other indigenous symbols and practices, was reduced down to a commercial or traditional gimmick, leading to terrible caricatures. Because of this, the suffering of indigenous people was seen as a joke or entertainment, because as far as the colonizers were public was concerned, they were long dead or about to be dead. If you look at these stereotypical pieces of imagery made during the era of colonization, I think you'll find it's safe to say that the "feather sticking out behind the ear/head" is prevalent in almost all of them.



A feather is a symbol within Native culture that signifies honor and connection between the owner, the Creator and the bird the feathers comes from.



Pavolineox Today at 11:42 AM

If we used the feather as a symbol of high status then that would be appropriation

TeleKitnetic Today at 11:43 AM

I literally just gave you a document on why that isn't true

Pavolineox Today at 11:43 AM

But thinking feathers behind the ears look cool isn't cultural appropriation

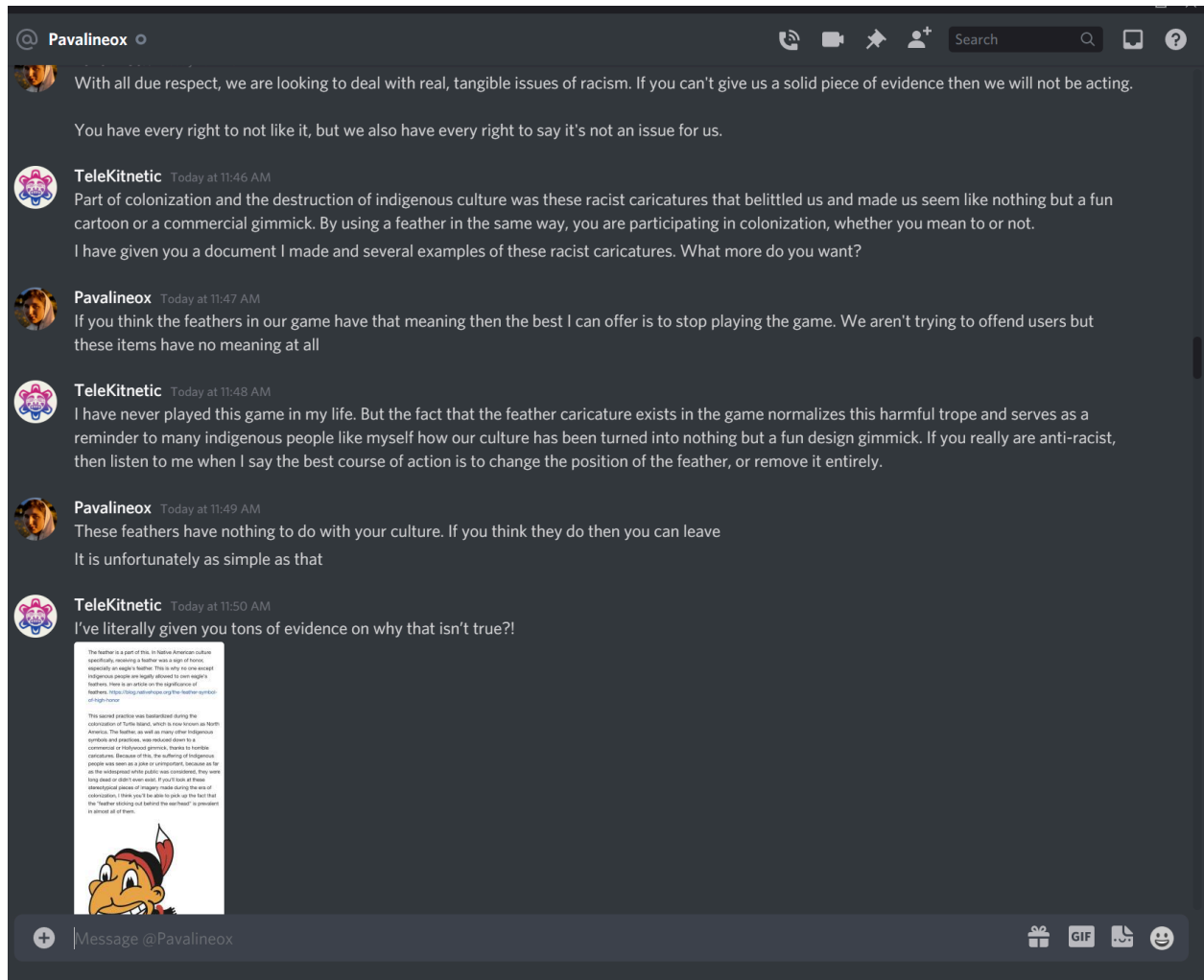
Keep In mind nothing in the game indicates that feathers mean anything about spirituality or status

This was done on purpose because we don't want to offend users

Find me a part in the game where we state that feathers denote rank. And I will gladly remove it

TeleKitnetic Today at 11:44 AM

Ok, so the feathers aren't being used for status, that's fine. But they are being used in a way that is the same as racist caricatures against indigenous ppl, in a game based off of a series that is incredibly racist to indigenous people to begin with.



For those who didn't read the document I wrote originally on the subject of feathers, here it is again:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LI3Gfo7d5kD2GLT1F1t4fUcP9LkLRHWBQ197XffU_Os/edit?usp=sharing

Basically, the way the feathers are designed in the game (Behind the ear) are similar to a drawn trope in racist stereotypical drawings of Indigenous people, which were made to mock and belittle our culture, a tactic used in the colonization of Indigenous people and our land.



Pavalineox Today at 11:52 AM
Have you seen the feathers in our game? You said you've never played
Do you want me to grab a picture for you



TeleKitnetic Today at 11:52 AM
I have. I've seen screenshots and videos.



Pavalineox Today at 11:52 AM
Maybe this is a misunderstanding
Perhaps you've been shown fake pictures



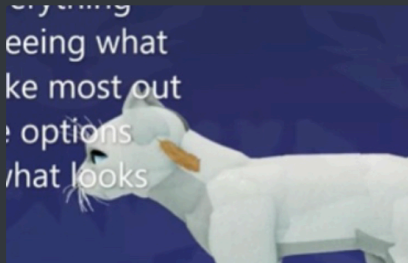
TeleKitnetic Today at 11:52 AM
It's not. I've seen what it looks like from videos of ppl making characters. The latest one I watched was from three weeks ago.



Pavalineox Today at 11:53 AM
Well. What did you see?
A feather behind the ear right?



TeleKitnetic Today at 11:53 AM
Yes.





Pavallineox

Today at 11:53 AM

As we can see

We don't have any native American content there

Compared to the images with your document

Where it's depicted on a native American person's head

This is just our cat head

Our reference art was just feathers on the ground



TeleKitnetic

Today at 11:55 AM

It's not what feathers they are, it's the fact that they're next to the ear in the same way as the racist caricatures. At this point you're actively trying to come up with every excuse you can as to why they're not racist.



Pavallineox

Today at 11:55 AM

I apologize but it appears to be the other way around. You are assuming things about the game and the design, basically making things up

There are games on Roblox that have literal native Americans in them

Such as a game called northwind

If you want to combat real issues of appropriation, go visit that game



TeleKitnetic

Today at 11:56 AM

Yes, and those are just as bad, but as a non-indigenous person, you have literally no say in what is considered racist to us.



Pavallineox

Today at 11:57 AM

That's not how our rules work. Being a part of a specific group does not grant anybody any privilege.

Because that in itself is racism



TeleKitnetic

Today at 11:57 AM

??? It isn't????? Do you have any knowledge on indigenous history at all????



Pavallineox

Today at 11:57 AM

Allow me to elaborate

If we were to change this SPECIFICALLY because you were a native American, that would be racist



TeleKitnetic

Today at 11:58 AM

And... how?



Message @Pavallineox



GIF



Pavallineox



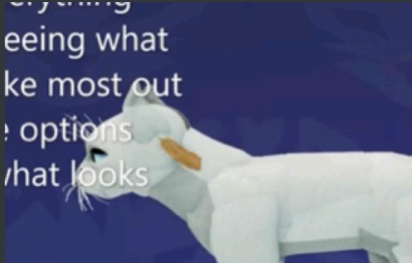
Today at 11:58 AM

Because we are doing things purely because of the race or heritage of a player
So therefore I want evidence as in a comparison between our game and those caricatures
Where you show an unobjectionable similarity
And more importantly, I want the entire community to agree with it
Not just a couple users



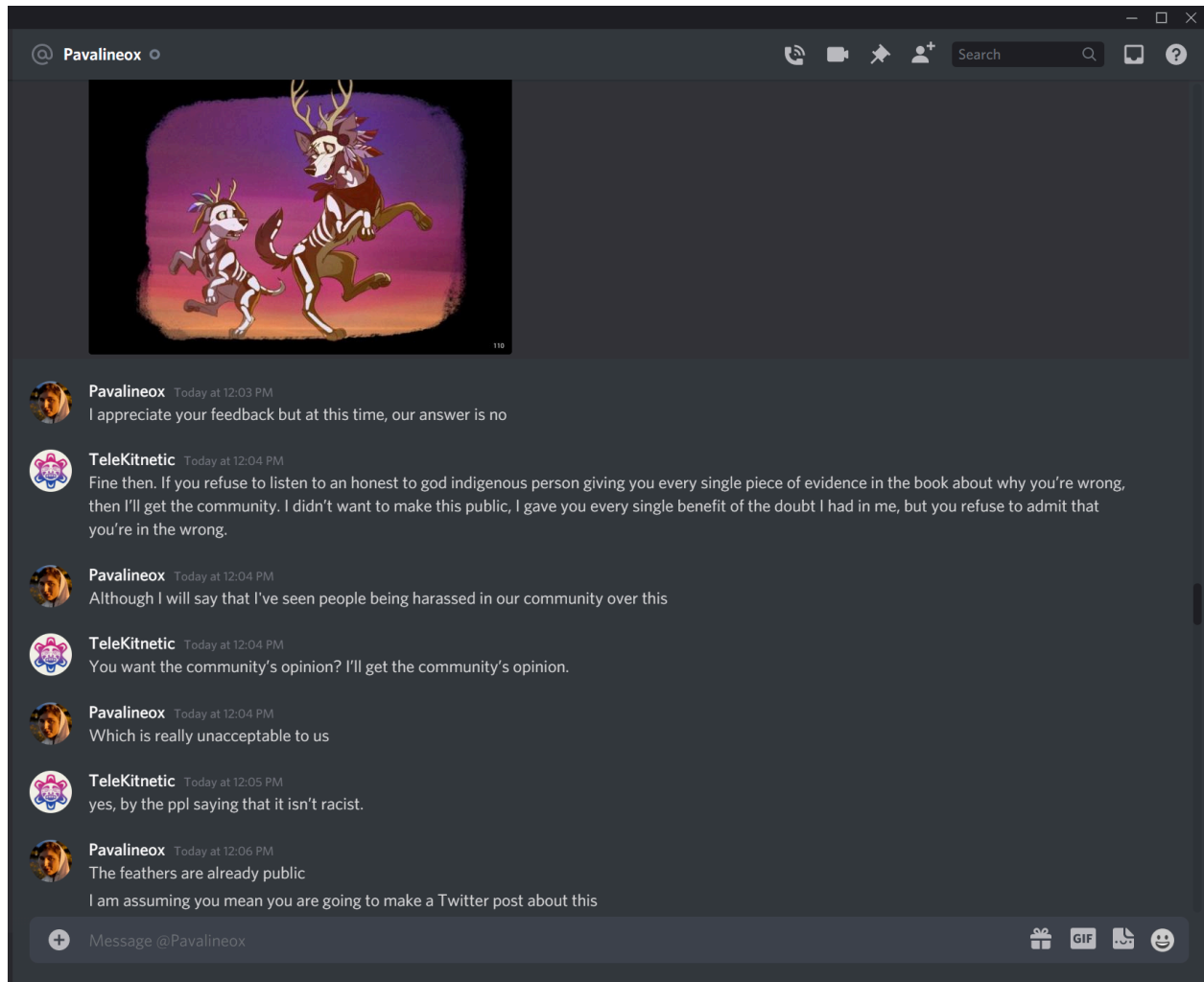
Today at 12:02 PM

I've literally given you so many examples but it's your funeral.



Message @Pavallineox





At this point, I was beyond insulted and furious, and I realize now that what I said in the image above was quite aggressive, and I apologize. I was seeing red by that point.

Pavallineox

Search



Pavallineox Today at 12:06 PM

The feathers are already public
I am assuming you mean you are going to make a Twitter post about this



TeleKitnetic Today at 12:06 PM

Not the feathers. Your bullshit excuses and counters about why you're not racist.



Pavallineox Today at 12:07 PM

Not once did we ever reference native American art or culture for any of these items
Hence our refusal to change them



TeleKitnetic Today at 12:13 PM

Except your caricature in the game is literally racist towards indigenous people, whether you were aware of it or not.
This doesn't need to be a big thing, just move the feathers literally ANYWHERE but the head



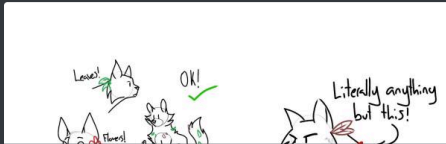
Pavallineox Today at 12:14 PM

Well that's kind of the issue
We cant
Our logic was like this
Feathers are cool
Let's add them
Where would you put a feather on a cat
Behind the ear
That's about it
It just makes sense



TeleKitnetic Today at 12:15 PM

There are literally so many options that isn't behind the ear



Message @Pavallineox



GIF



Pavallineox



TeleKitnetic Today at 12:15 PM

There are literally so many options that isn't behind the ear



Just move the feather anywhere else and it'll stop being racist.



Pavallineox Today at 12:16 PM

I did some reading on this

And you are right about one thing

Some native Americans do indeed find wearing feathers as a form of attire is a disrespect to their culture

And that is understandable for their specific cultures because some of them do view the feather as an important symbol of status

Just as one example

Are you with me so far



TeleKitnetic Today at 12:18 PM

I literally already know this. I've spent days researching this stuff, plus I'm literally indigenous.



Pavallineox Today at 12:18 PM

Okay good

now I'm going to explain something else we've encountered before

Some religious people find that the "StarClan" content from warrior cats is offensive

because suggesting the aspects of StarClan offend to their religious beliefs

disagree with them, etc



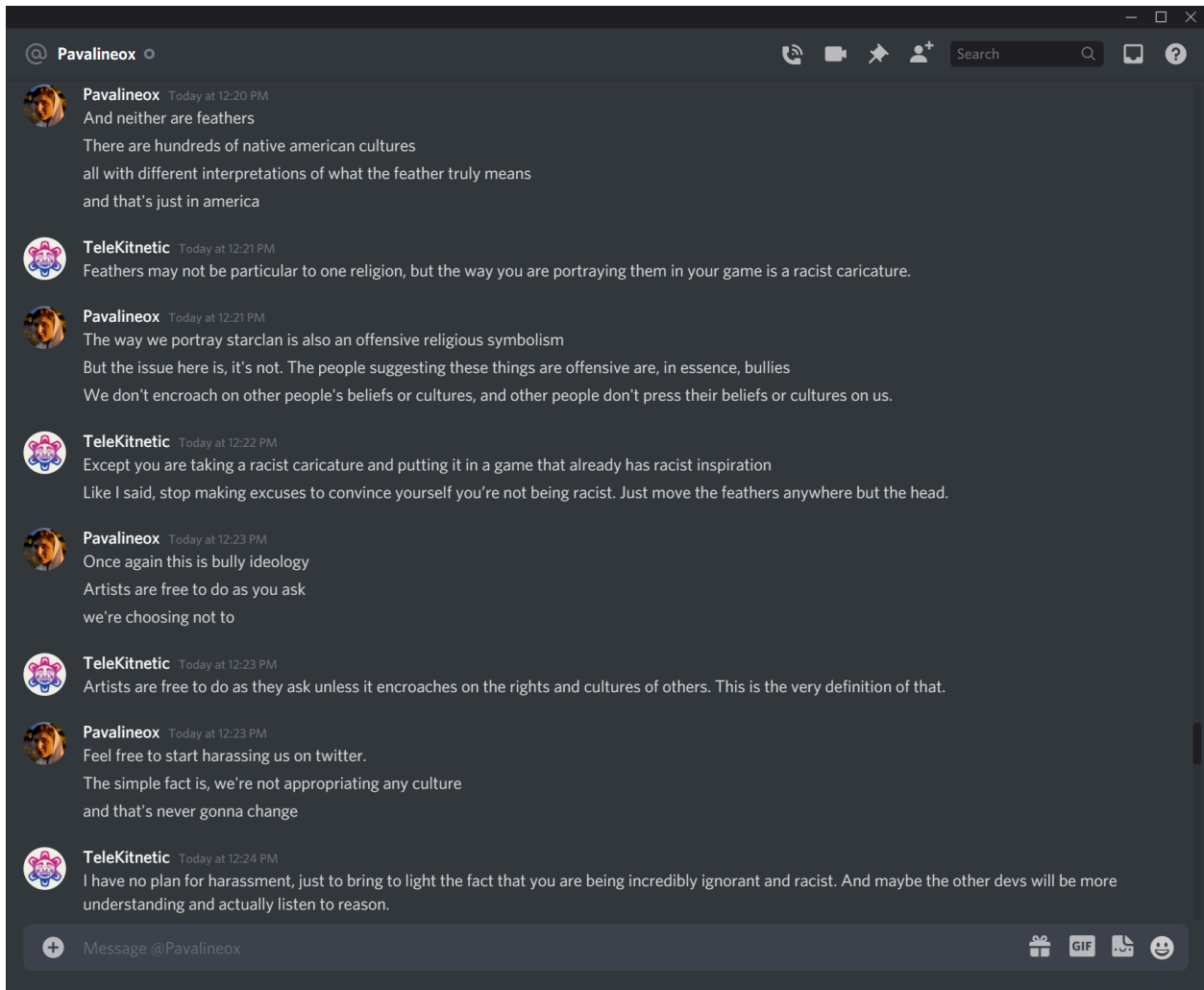
TeleKitnetic Today at 12:20 PM

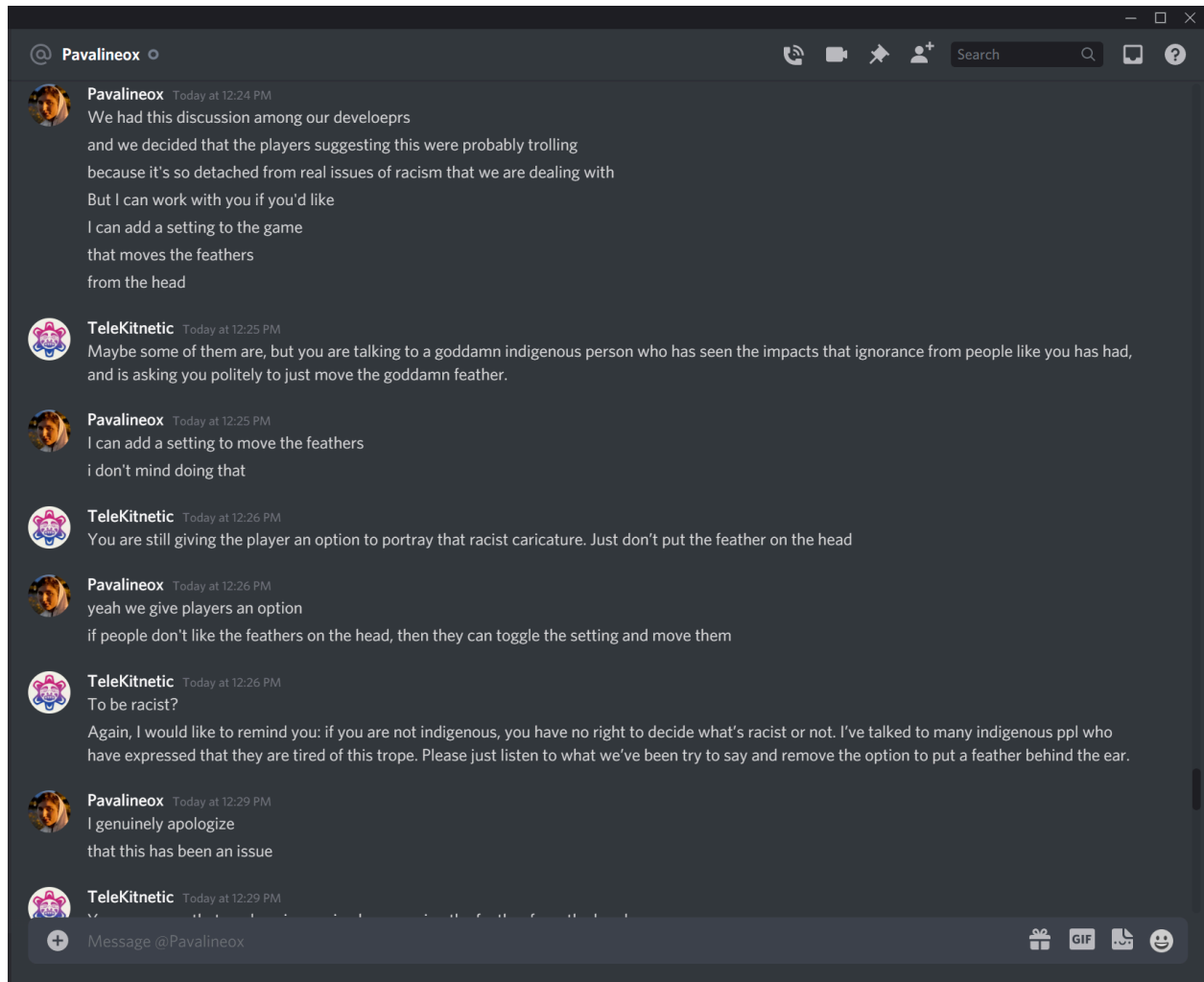
I cannot speak on that as believing in a deity or a higher power is something that is not exclusive to one religion.



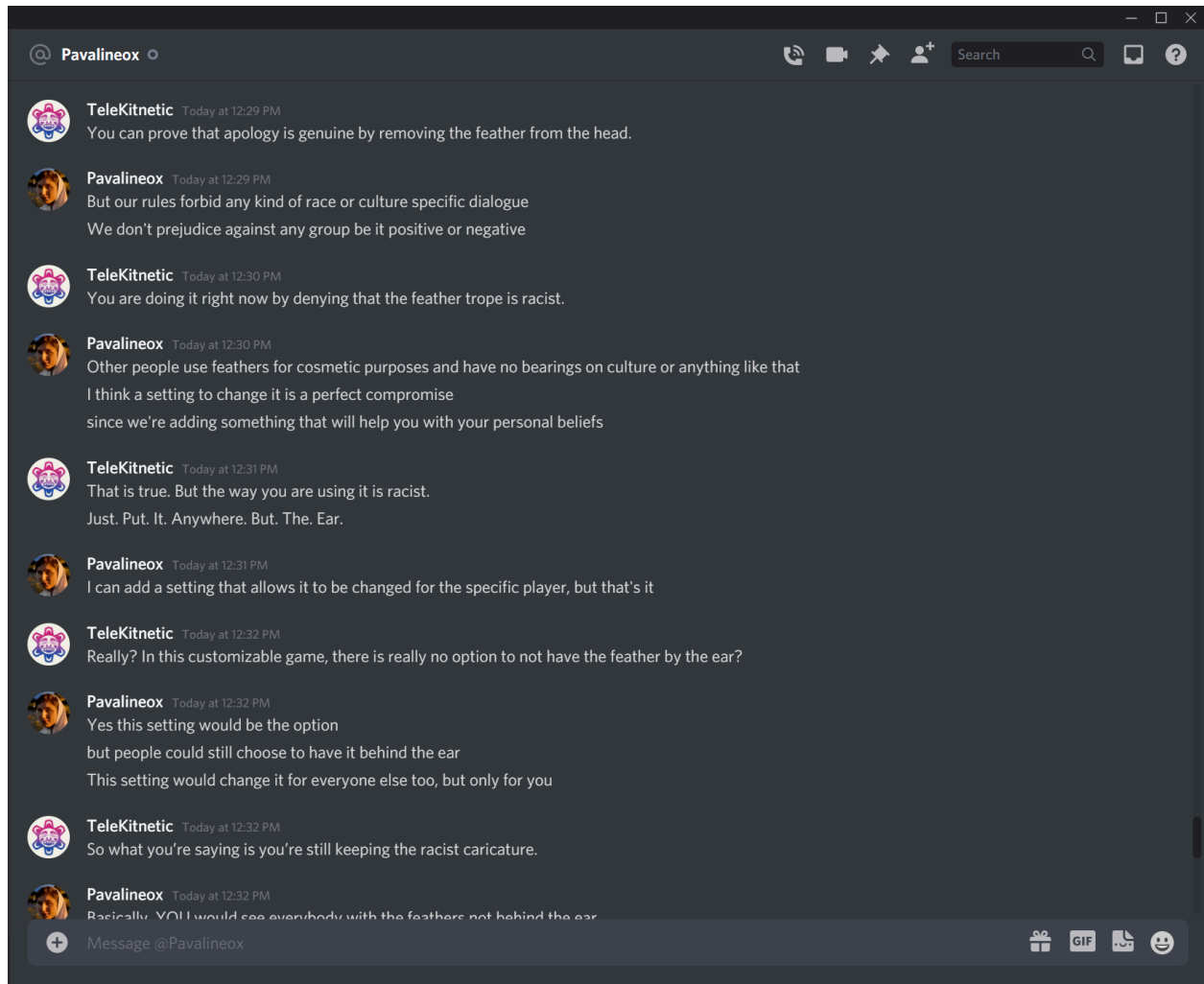
Message @Pavallineox

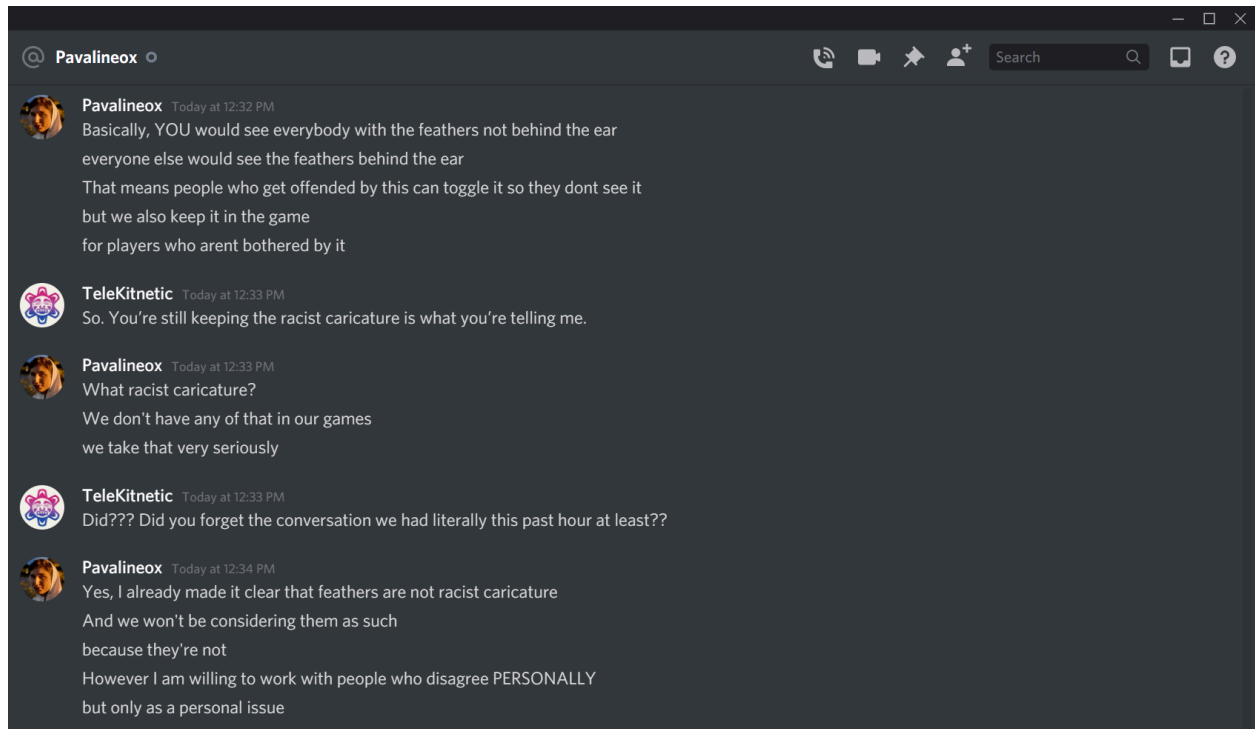




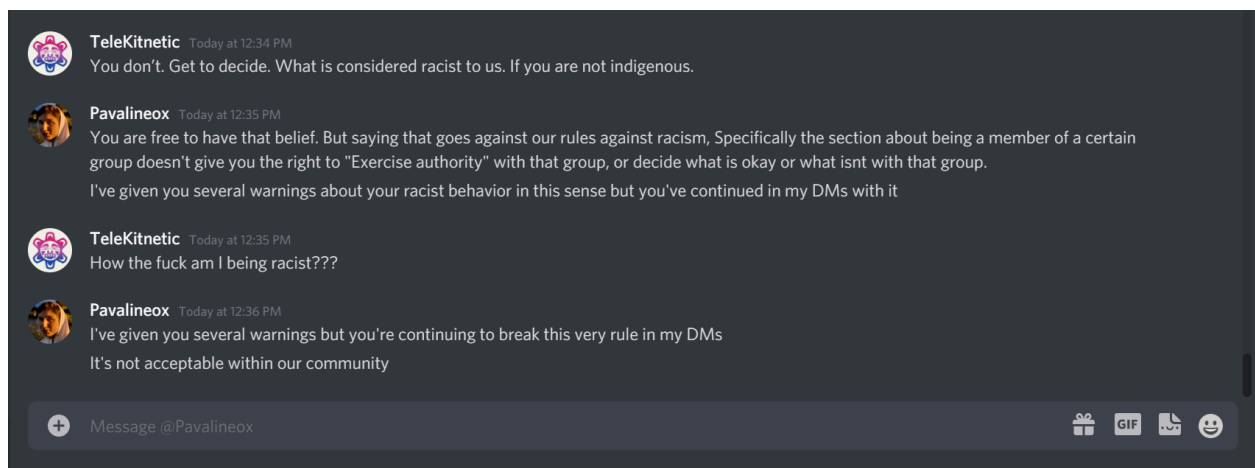


At this point, they basically admitted that everyone on the dev team has the same belief: the feather trope is none of their concern.





I literally have no words for what happened here.



At this point they blocked me, and all communications halted.

I have not played the game itself, but I've seen plenty of videos, fanart, and screenshots where the feather trope is in full display.

TLDR; I contacted one of the main devs, who is also a mod for the game's discord server, about the issue. They first told me it was none of their concern, consistently claimed that symbol was not racist despite never telling me anywhere whether or not they were Indigenous, tried to excuse their behaviour,

questioned whether or not i was SEEING THINGS RIGHT, became condescending when I repeatedly asked them to remove the feather, then pretended that our conversation had never happened and told me I was racist for not wanting a racist caricature against Indigenous people (and I cannot stress this enough, I AM Indigenous) in their game, a game based off of a series that already has Indigenous stereotypes and appropriation.

Final Words:

So... that conversation was maybe one of the most frustrating I've ever had. I always try and remain passive when informing people about these stereotypes, as not everyone is fully educated on the history of Indigenous people, but this dev bent over backwards to try and tell me why I was wrong, even calling me a bully and that I "was abusing my authority" for... not wanting a racist caricature in their game. From the looks of it, the entire team shares the same sentiment.

With all this in mind, I ask you, if you play the game Warrior Cats Ultimate or know someone who does, to please stop. Because the devs won't listen to reason, the direct solution is to make it clear to them that their actions are not acceptable in this community. Do not play the game, and if possible report the game and the devs with the Roblox report options for discriminatory actions against ethnic/cultural origins. **DO NOT HARASS THE MODS, ANYONE WHO COMPLAINS ABOUT THIS DOC, OR ANYBODY MENTIONED IN THE DOC. I do not know the twitter @s of the devs, but do not try to harass them. Don't stoop to their level. If you really want to, you can try and (respectfully) talk sense into them with the evidence I provided here and in my first doc, but do not be rude.**

If you weren't aware of the negative connotations of the stereotype, do not beat yourself up over it, but make sure you know it from now on, and be sure to try and educate your friends if you see them making the same mistake. If you are planning to argue or yell at me for this document and you aren't Indigenous, then I will simply block you and hide your reply. I have no more energy to continuously tell angry white people why this is racist.

If you are a dev for the game and you are reading this, I ask you: think about someone other than yourself. Look at all the evidence that has been gathered.

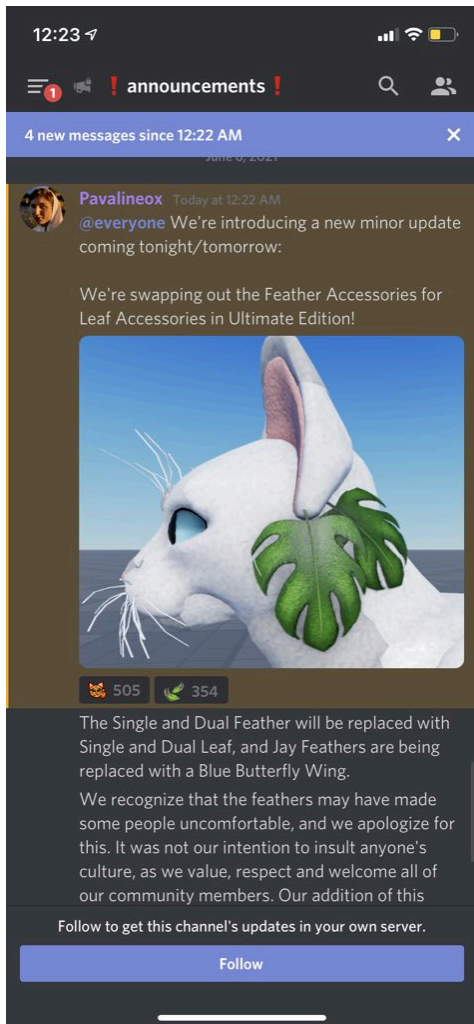
Stop trying to deny the consequences of your hurtful words. If the entire dev team offers a public, sincere apology to indigenous people, promises to do better to avoid using racist stereotypes and tropes, and edits the designs so that the trope is no longer in the game AT ALL, the tweet this doc is in will be deleted. Not “edited so only those who don’t want to see them can’t see them”, edited so the option to have a racist caricature on your character is removed entirely.

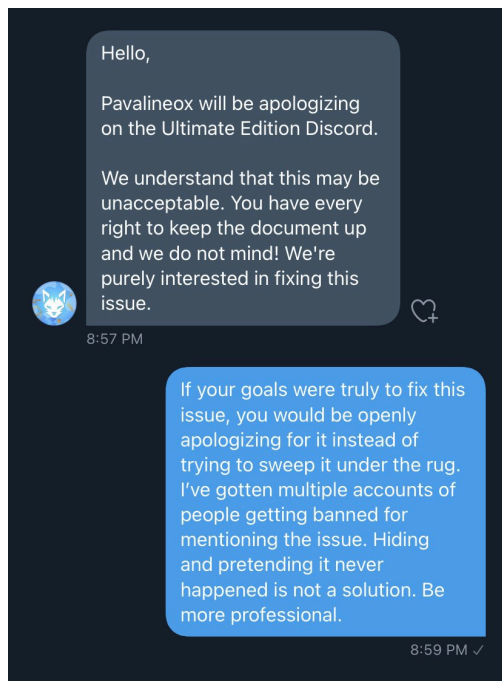
If you were one of the people harassed for bringing up the subject of why the feather trope is bad and would like to share your screenshots of the events or have screenshots removed, DM me and I will be more than happy to oblige. Special thanks to those who brought this issue to light and gave me evidence as I worked on this document.

Stay safe, wear a mask, boycott Warrior Cats Ultimate, and if you are still reading, thank you for hearing me out. Misiyh, dzin honzu.

Update 1:

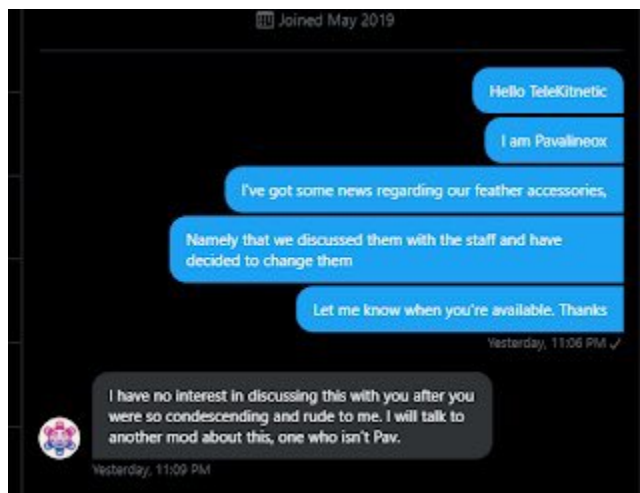
So the official WCUE twitter has released a statement saying that they are changing the feathers to leaves, and an apology from one of the mods was released on their discord. However, they are consistently dodging my question of when an official, public apology will be offered to the indigenous community.





Not only that, but Pav (the dev that I talked with originally) blamed me for being “rude” to him and “misrepresenting his words”, which I don’t really know what to say about that.

NOTE: I'd like to add on that I tried to reach out to the original author of the twitter post that called this out, but they shut me down and have misrepresented a lot of what I said (cutting messages, etc), which is unfortunate, but i'm glad to have addressed the community as a whole, which I think is more important.



Maybe I'm wrong, but I think I'm perfectly valid for not wanting to talk anymore with a person who was openly rude and condescending to me and is continuing to call me racist for... some reason?? I haven't been told at all why, although two of my assumptions are A) because I referred to white people once as colonizers, or B) for bringing it up to begin with to the devs.

Not only that, but consistently since I posted this doc, people who so much as mention the issue on the discord get instabanned. And, according to a statement from the mod, they aren't coming back.



Pavalineox Today at 11:56 PM

Yeah, the people banned are staying banned.



Pavalineox Today at 11:56 PM

The tweet author especially, was found to have multiple tweets with blatant racism



lion (lionkit) Today at 11:56 PM

hi i heard you guys tkae fart pics



lion (lionkit) warrior dogs



Oreo_Pupii Today at 11:56 PM

erin hunter made a book called "survivors" basically just dogs, like dog days on roblox if anyone had heard of that



Pavalineox Today at 11:56 PM

so like, they're staying bann't

So... yeah. The mods are censoring anyone who brings up the issue, and are letting one of their mods spread lies about me being racist with literally no evidence at all.

Until an actual apology is made to the Indigenous community, and the people who were banned for no reason, the doc will be staying up.